



## Fact Sheet

January 2015

# Information for 2015 On-Farm Energy Initiative

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

### Introduction

It's no surprise that energy is a major business expense, but now farmers and ranchers in Montana have a great opportunity to become more energy-efficient through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The EQIP Energy Initiative provides technical and financial assistance for improvements to major energy-consuming activities within your farm or ranch enterprises, such as irrigation pumping plants, building envelopes, lighting systems, HVAC, motors/VSD's, crop/tillage systems.

Energy conservation can make you even more competitive by cutting fuel and nitrogen inputs, reducing electrical energy use, and lowering operational costs.

### Take the FIRST Step...The Audit

An energy audit is the first step in taking advantage of energy-saving opportunities. EQIP program payments are available to hire a registered Technical Service Provider (TSP) for an energy audit. The TSP will provide an on-site evaluation and develop an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) for your farm or ranch enterprises.

The AgEMP is a detailed inventory of the energy-consuming equipment and practices used in your farm or ranch enterprises. (Residential buildings are excluded.) The plan will document baseline energy use, recommend energy-efficiency improvements, calculate potential energy savings, and show the simple payback period of improvements.

### Take the SECOND Step...Implementation

Your AgEMP will present a table of recommendations to make your farm or ranch enterprises more energy-efficient. NRCS can provide program payments for the implementation of AgEMP recommendations which have proven energy-reduction benefits on Montana farms and ranches:

- Lighting Improvements
  - LED
  - CFL
  - Linear Fluorescent
  - Pulse Start Metal Halide
- Building Envelopes
  - Attic and Wall Insulation
  - Sealants
- Milkhouse Upgrades
  - Heat Exchangers (Plate Coolers)
  - Scroll Compressors
  - Automated Control Systems
  - General Motor Upgrades
  - Variable Speed Drives
  - High Efficiency and Radiant Tube Heaters
- Irrigation Improvements
  - Pumps, Variable Speed Drives
  - Turbine Bowls
  - Sprinkler Nozzle Packages
  - Conversion from Pump to Gravity Systems
- Cropland Management
  - Conservation Crop Rotations
  - Cover Crops
  - Residue and Tillage Management

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



## Montana Technical Service Providers (TSP):

- **John Heffernan**, 3851 Duncan Drive,  
Missoula, Montana 59802, 406-543-4097
- **David Ryan**, 2910 Floral Blvd, Butte,  
Montana 59701, 406-490-6233

## For more information:

Contact Steve Becker, [steve.becker@mt.usda.gov](mailto:steve.becker@mt.usda.gov),  
406-587-6828 or visit [mt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://mt.nrcs.usda.gov).

### **Non-Discrimination Policy**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

### **To File an Employment Complaint**

If you wish to file an employment complaint, you must contact your agency's **EEO Counselor** within 45 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act, event, or in the case of a personnel action. Additional information can be found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_file.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_file.html).

### **To File a Program Complaint**

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the **USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form**, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9419, by fax at (202) 690-7442, or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

### **Persons with Disabilities**

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.), please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish, or call the **State Information/Hotline Numbers**.

### **All Other Inquiries**

For any other information not pertaining to civil rights, please refer to the listing of the **USDA Agencies and Offices**.

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

